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CMTE 29

20 AUG 1985  
LOGGEDICS 85-8093  
17 July 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Director, Intelligence Community Staff *ba*FROM:   
Chairman, DCID 1/2 Committee

25X1

SUBJECT: Priority Saturation

1. Recently, you sent me a note expressing concern that continuing priority increases would soon "saturate the system." That possibility, of course, claims the Committee's constant attention, since it is critical to the usefulness and credibility of the priorities system. Our statistics (attached) indicate that growth in both the number and level of priority assignments over the past six years has been notably restrained in view the rise of a substantial number of major problem areas such as terrorism, narcotics trafficking,  etc. On a percentage basis, for example, priorities at levels 1-4 currently constitute 20.7% of all assignments, as compared to 18.1% in 1979. Total assignments have risen only 169 (out of almost 10,000) in the same period. The numbers for June 1985 provided in Attachment A will be reduced by the results of our annual downgrading review currently in progress. (S/NF)

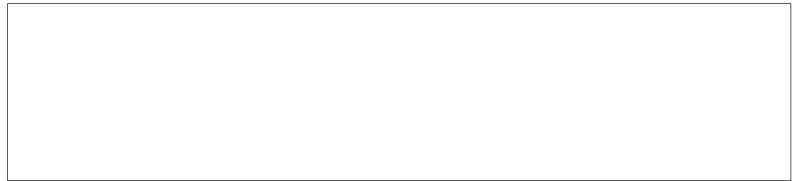
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2. I believe the growth curve in priority assignments at the top four levels is flattening out. Following a surge in the 1981-82 time frame, when the Community began to respond to problems such as those mentioned above, year-to-year increases have narrowed. The numbers for October 1985 will show this trend continuing. In conjunction with this year's annual review, we have established benchmarks at each priority level (Attachment C) as a basis for making more rigorous the determination of relative importance among requirements. The Committee is also engaged in an ongoing program of restructuring requirements topics and definitions, particularly in the economics and S&T areas, in order to make them more reflective of current user concerns and to make the priorities system as a whole more dynamic. The results of a number of these efforts have already been sent to you for approval, and several more will follow. (C/NF)

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3. I would be happy to discuss Committee operations with you in greater depth at your convenience.



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Attachments:

- A. Priority Level Changes
- B. Changes in Shape of Matrix
- C. Benchmark Priorities

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ICS 85-8093

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